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Respectfully submitted,

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BANNER AND WITCOFF, LTD.

APR 25 2003

**Technology Center 2100**

Atty. Docket No.  
003493.84406

PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:

Gregory SEREDA

Examiner: G. Robinson

U.S. Pat. App. No.: 09/707,462

Group Art Unit: 2177

Filed: November 6, 2000

For: **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR EFFICIENTLY RETRIEVING INFORMATION  
FROM A DATABASE**

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated March 19, 2003, Applicant respectfully elects to prosecute claims 1-27 (Group I) of the application, which are drawn to a method of searching data stored as a database.

Applicant courteously traverses the outstanding restriction requirement, however, and asks that it be withdrawn. The MPEP directs that:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without

*serious* burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions. (See MPEP §803, *emphasis added*).

In this instance, Applicant submits that the Examiner has not shown why the examination of all of the pending claims in this application would present a serious burden. It is respectfully submitted that, in reviewing the prior art for the subject matter of claims 1-27, the Examiner will simultaneously review much of the relevant prior art for claims 28-34 as well. Therefore, Applicant again requests that this Restriction Requirement be withdrawn in accordance with MPEP §803.

It is believed that no fees are required for the consideration and entry of this Response. If, however, the Commissioner believes fees are required, he is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

Examination on the merits is respectfully awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

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